

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal ~~[[by]]~~ comprising heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing ~~[[a]]~~ metal chloride and elemental metal of the metal contained in the metal chloride, and reducing the ~~resulting metal chloride steam vapor~~ with ~~[[a]]~~ hydrogen gas to produce the super-micro powder of a pure metal, ~~characterized in that an elemental metal constituting the metal chloride is mixed with the starting material containing the metal chloride.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[as]]~~ the metal chloride ~~is used a metal chloride having~~ has a valence ~~larger among metal chlorides having~~ of at least two or more valence.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of cupric chloride (CuCl_2) ~~or ferric chloride (FeCl_3)~~ CuCl_2 , FeCl_3 and NiCl_2 .

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy ~~[[by]]~~ comprising heating a starting material forming metal chloride vapor, the starting material containing ~~[[a]]~~ metal chloride and elemental metal as alloying components; and reducing the ~~resulting metal chloride steam vapor~~ with hydrogen gas to form the super-micro powder of an alloy, ~~characterized in that a metal chloride is used as one to (number~~

of all alloying components—1) alloying components in the starting material and an elemental metal is used as the other alloying component.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the metal chloride is ~~eupric chloride (CuCl_2), cuprous chloride (CuCl), ferric chloride (FeCl_3), ferrous chloride (FeCl_2), nickel chloride (NiCl_2), cobalt chloride (CoCl_2) or stannous chloride (SnCl_2)~~ at least one of CuCl_2 , CuCl , FeCl_3 , FeCl_2 , NiCl_2 , CoCl_2 and SnCl_2 .

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 4, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu, Fe, Ni, Co, Ag, W, Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr, V, Ge and Sb.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 2, wherein the metal chloride is at least one of ~~eupric chloride (CuCl_2) or ferric chloride (FeCl_3)~~ CuCl_2 , FeCl_3 and NiCl_2 .

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing super-micro powder of an alloy according to claim 5, wherein the elemental metal is ~~copper (Cu), iron (Fe), nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), silver (Ag), tungsten (W), molybdenum (Mo), niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), chromium (Cr), vanadium (V), germanium (Ge) or antimony (Sb)~~ at least one of Cu, Fe, Ni, Co, Ag, W, Mo, Nb, Ta, Cr, V, Ge and Sb.

9. (New) A method of producing super-micro powder of a pure metal according to claim 1, wherein the metal chloride and the elemental metal are mixed.